

ABSTRACT

Information at a vendor relates to inventory of products sold to a customer. The customer programs a databot at the vendor, in accordance with rules established by the customer, to have the vendor specify to the customer at particular times the inventory at the vendor for the products. In accordance with this programming, the vendor provides to the customer at the particular times through a databot the information relating to the inventories of the products at the vendor. The customer indicates to the vendor whether it wants the products shipped promptly or at a specified later time. The vendor records this information in a data base and gives the customer a report, at times, of the status of the orders including products shipped and products to be shipped.